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Charlie Boland
O: 859.268.6314
M: 859.537.0759
charles.boland@amwater.com

Kentucky American Water Sponsors 2012 Founders Day at McConnell Springs

Lexington, KY (May 18, 2012) – Kentucky American Water is pleased to continue its role as lead sponsor for the 2012 Founders Day Event at McConnell Springs. McConnell Springs is the recognized birthplace of Lexington, Kentucky, and the Founders Day event serves as the city's official birthday, celebrating the pioneers who settled the area and gave Lexington its name.

McConnell Springs was the original encampment site of a group of explorers led by William McConnell in 1775. The Revolutionary War started at Lexington, Mass., at about this time. In honor of the new nation's struggle for independence, the group of pioneers gave the name Lexington to their future settlement. The land served a variety of primarily agricultural uses and had several owners until 1958, when it was purchased and used for industrial purposes. The original buildings were dismantled, the site abandoned, and its historical significance became in danger of being forgotten. In 1993 a group of citizens concerned with preserving the history of Lexington formed the Friends of McConnell Springs, purchased the site in 1994, and led an effort to reclaim and restore the area. It is now a 26-acre local park dedicated to passive recreation and providing cultural, historical, and environmental education opportunities for the community. It includes 2 miles of walking trails, over 130 species of plants, an abundance of urban wildlife, and is home to the Kentucky American Water Company Education Center.

Founders Day will be held Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McConnell Springs Park, 416 Rebmann Lane, near downtown Lexington. The event is free and open to the public. Activities include historic reenactments, colonial period music, storytelling, and tours of the park. Displays and demonstrations of pioneer life will also be provided, such as wool spinning,

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woodcarving, tomahawk throwing, and an exhibit of Kentucky long rifles. Vendor and sponsor booths will be on site as well.

Protecting and educating citizens about the natural environment is a mission embraced both by McConnell Springs and Kentucky American Water. Kentucky American is proud to sponsor this event along with many other grants and scholarships offered annually to the community through the company's environmental stewardship initiatives. Come join fellow citizens at McConnell Springs on May 19 to help celebrate the founding of the community we call home.

Kentucky American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately half a million people.

Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 15 million people in more than 30 states, as well as parts of Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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